

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 05373 222110Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00  
PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 PM-05 NSC-05 SS-15 SSM-03  
HA-05 TRSE-00 /068 W  
-----023874 240204Z /62

R 211502Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2745  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PGOV, IS, US  
SUBJECT: PRESS FOCUS ON REPORT OF VICE CONSUL HULL'S EXPULSION  
FROM SETTLEMENT

REF: TEL AVIV 5253; TEL AVIV 5292; TEL AVIV 5331

1. SUMMARY. PRESS TREATMENT OF ALLEGED "INCIDENT"  
INVOLVING VICE CONSUL HULL MORE BALANCED TODAY AS  
DEPARTMENT'S STATEMENT AND EMBASSY BRIEFING IS PRO-  
MINENTLY PLAYED. REMARKABLY SIMILAR STORIES REPORT  
RE-EXAMINATION BY IDF OF ALLEGATIONS AGAINST HULL, AND  
HA'ARETZ ADDS THAT HE IS ACCUSED OF GATHERING MILITARY  
INFORMATION. THE JERUSALEM POST NOTES POSSIBLE POLITICAL  
RAMIFICATIONS. IT IS OUR VIEW THAT PRESS INTEREST WILL  
BEGIN TO FLAG UNLESS GOI MAKES PUBLIC STATEMENT ON THIS  
"INCIDENT." THE STORY WAS NOT ADDRESSED IN ANY OF  
TODAY'S EDITORIAL COLUMNS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE ALLEGED "INCIDENT" INVOLVING VICE CONSUL HULL'S  
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PAGE 02 TEL AV 05373 222110Z

EXPLUSION FROM HARIS SETTLEMENT WAS THE SUBJECT OF MORE  
EXTENDED AND PROMINENT PRESS COVERAGE TODAY AS MOST  
FIRST OR SECOND PAGE REPORTS FOCUSED ON THE DEPARTMENT'S  
STATEMENT AND EMBASSY BRIEFING ON THE SUBJECT. BY PLAYING  
UP DEPARTMENT'S REFUTATION OF CLAIMS (CARRIED IN YESTER-  
DAY'S PRESS) IN BOTH HEADLINES AND TEXT OF STORIES, A  
MORE BALANCED TREATMENT IS ACHIEVED ALTHOUGH IN MOST

ARTICLES THE SAME ALLEGATIONS ARE TACKED ON WITH A NOTATION THAT A RE-EXAMINATION BY MILITARY AUTHORITIES HAD VERIFIED THEIR ACCURACY.

3. ALTHOUGH THE STORY RECEIVES REMARKABLY UNIFORM TREATMENT IN THE VARIOUS NEWSPAPERS, A FEW ADDITIONAL ANGLES ARE PROVIDED BY INDIVIDUAL REPORTS. SAFADI, IN THE POST, WRITES AS FOLLOWS: "THE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN RECENTLY LOOKING INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF CURBING WHAT IS BEING TERMED AS INCREASED PARTISAN ACITICITY BY FOREIGN DIPLOMATS "IN THE TERRITORIES. THE MOVE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN TRIGGERED MAINLY BY THE MOUNTING DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN THE REPORTS THESE DIPLOMATS FILE...AND THE STATEMENTS ISSUED BY THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT WITH REGARD TO THOSE AREAS." SAFADI REPORTS THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WILL SEEK TO IMPROVE COORDINATION OF VISITS BY DIPLOMATS WITHIN THE TERRITORIES. SAFADI ADDS THAT "REPORTS OF ATTEMPTS TO CURB DIPLOMATS' MOVEMENTS IN THE TERRITORIES HAVE BEEN BREWING SINCE THE APRIL 3 ISSUE OF TIME MAGAZINE CARRIED A STORY CLAIMING THAT THE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES WERE INTRODUCING TOUGH MEASURES IN CRACKING DOWN ON WEST BAK TOWN DEMONSTRATIONS." THE POST STORY IS UNIQUE IN NOTING POSSIBLE BROADER POLITICAL RAMIFICATIONS OF THE INCIDENT AND IMPLYING THE EXISTENCE OF ISRAELI MOTIVES FOR EXPLOITING IF FOR BROADER PURPOSES. GOI SENSI- LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 TEL AV 05373 222110Z

TIVITY APPARENTLY EXTENDS TO REPORTERS AS WELL AS TO DIPLOMATS: THE POST ON WEDNESDAY NOTED THAT ONE OF ITS REPORTERS WAS EVICTED FROM NABI SALAH (NEVI TZUF) SETTLEMENT.

4. MA'ARIV STATES THAT "IT HAS BEEN REPORTED FROM THE MILITARY COMMAND OF JUDEA AND SAMARIA THAT THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME A REPRESENTATIVE OF A FOREIGN STATE HAD ENTERED 'ON THE SLY' INTO A MILITARY AREA AND HAD EVEN TRIED TO AVOID IDENTIFYING HIMSELF WHEN HE WAS ALREADY INSIDE THE CAMP."

5. SCHIFF IN HA'ARETZ PLAYS UP THE ALLEGATION WHICH HE ATTRIBUTES TO THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES THAT VICE CONSUL HULL SOUGHT INFORMATION OF A MILITARY NATURE INCLUDING THE IDENTIFICATION OF ARMY UNITS IN HARIS. IN CONVERSATION WITH US, SCHIFF INSISTED THAT THE ISRAELI PRESS HAD NOT BLOWN THE STORY OUT OF PROPORTION OR DISTORTED INFORMATION PROVIDED IT BY THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES. HE EXPRESSED HIS WON PERSONAL VIEW THAT "THIS WHOLE THING SMELLS," AND THAT, UNLIKE THE FABRICATED REPORT OF AN AMERICAN OFFICIAL RELATING U.S. INTEREST

IN BEGIN'S DOWNFALL, IN THIS CASE THERE WERE SERIOUS  
GROUNDS FOR ISRAELI MISGIVINGS ABOUT THE ACTIONS OF  
AN AMERICAN DIPLOMAT. SCHIFF DID NOT THINK THE ACTIVITIES  
OF THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES ON THE WEST BANK WOULD BE  
ADVERSELY AFFECTED NOR DOES HE BELIEVE THAT  
THE PROMINENT PRESS COVERAGE IS SYMPTOMATIC OF THE  
LOW STATE OF ISRAELI-U.S. RELATIONS.

5. IT IS OUR VIEW THAT THE PRESS HAS MILKED THIS STORY  
FOR ALL ITS WORTH AND INTEREST IN IT WILL SOON FLAG  
UNLESS GOI STATEMENTS OR ACTIONS SERVE TO REVIVE IT.  
IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT THERE IS NO EDITIRIAL COMMENT  
TODAY ON THIS SUBJECT LET ALONE REPETITION ANYWHERE OF  
YESTERDAY'S "HYSTERICAL" (SCHIFF) REACTION IN MA'ARIV.  
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PAGE 04 TEL AV 05373 222110Z

LEWIS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, VICE CONSULS, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL EXPULSIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Reference:** 78 TEL AVIV 5253, 78 TEL AVIV 5292, 78 TEL AVIV 5331  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Subject:** PRESS FOCUS ON REPORT OF VICE CONSUL HULL'S EXPULSION FROM SETTLEMENT  
**TAGS:** PGOV, SOPN, PDIP, IS, US, (HULL, EDMUND)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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